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LETTER DATED 16 JULY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am writing to present the remarks of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regarding your report on the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) (S/1999/764) of 8 July 1999.

According to the original concept of the United Nations security system established in 1992, the northern part of the area extending to the three-border junction between Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia (Bjelotina) does not belong to the demilitarized zone. Yugoslavia never accepted it as such irrespective of the fact that it has allowed that the area be monitored as an expression of good will. This area, therefore, cannot be the subject of a report of the Secretary-General, in particular not as an area in which an alleged violation of the United Nations security system takes place.

Yugoslavia takes exception to the part of the report relative to crossing points. They have been opened unilaterally by the Republic of Croatia, while the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, within whose jurisdiction is the question of crossing points, has not agreed to their opening. Opening crossing points implies a conclusion of a bilateral agreement between the two States.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that Yugoslavia has always called for the preservation of the original concept of the United Nations security system on Prevlaka, on which the two sides agreed in the agreement on normalization of their relations, published as a document of the Security Council (S/1996/706, annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

99-21043 (E) 190799